

Inside this Issue:

- 1** Applicability of Clinger-Cohen and Economy Acts
- 1** Client Guide touts value-add of CSCs and the ease of using ANSWER
- 1** ANSWER Regional Program Meeting (RPM) held in Fort Worth
- 2** RFP issued for Multiple Award Nationwide DSL support
- 2** ANSWER responds to the most frequently asked question
- 2** Request for Wage Determinations submitted to DOL
- 2** Solutions Edu Schedules courses for FY01
- 2** Safeguard 2000 moves ahead



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ANSWER IT

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION BY THE ANSWER SOLUTIONS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Applicability of Clinger-Cohen and Economy Acts

Sheila Ames/Mimi Bruce

Questions have been raised regarding the applicable authority to obtain information technology resources from GSA programs that are funded through the Information Technology Fund. The applicable authority is Section 5112(e) of Division E of the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-106, formerly the Information Technology Management Reform Act of 1996 (ITMRA)), not the Economy Act (31 U.S.C. Sections 1535 and 1536). The Economy Act applies if no other specific authority exists that would take precedence over citing the Economy Act (see FAR 17.5).

Section 5112(e) authorized the Director of OMB to designate one or more heads of executive agencies as executive agent for Government-wide acquisitions of information technology. On August 2, 1996, OMB Director Jacob Lew designated GSA as an executive agency for "the Federal Systems Integration and Management Center (FEDSIM) and Federal Computer Acquisition Center (FEDCAC) programs, as well as for other existing government-wide information technology acquisition programs." The scope of the designation is limited to programs that are funded on a reimbursable basis through the Information Technology (IT) Fund. OMB extended its designation to GSA through 9/30/2000. OMB is in the process of completing its review of the programs covered under the designation to "ensure that agencies are provided with an efficient and effective means to acquire information technology support services competitively, consistent with the policies and procedures of Federal Acquisition Regulation Part 39, and strategically take advantage of the Federal government's buying power."

Accordingly, for IT and IT-related GSA programs funded through the IT Fund, the appropriate authority is Section 5112(e) of Division E of the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996. For example, GSA's Federal Technology Service's ANSWER Contracts provide IT and IT-related services and as such are authorized to use the IT Fund under the OMB delegation. Therefore, the authority to access GSA FTS's ANSWER Contracts is the Clinger-Cohen Act.

Client Guide touts value-add of CSCs and the ease of using ANSWER

Paul Martin/Sherrie Householder

A 15 page roadmap to promote the "value add" service of the CSCs in the context of ANSWER was issued this month. The full color publication underscores the "ease" of using FTS CSCs to place and oversee projects under ANSWER. The publication includes information for all CSCs and ANSWER Managers. For copies contact Karan Osborne or BJ Thigpen 858.530.3175.

ANSWER Regional Program Meeting (RPM) held in Fort Worth

Lyle Hull/Paul Martin

Linda Catherall, Project Manager for Region 7, coordinated a Regional Program Meeting for ANSWER. The meeting was held in the Fort Worth Office on 8/16. The objective of the RPM was to bring together the regional ANSWER POCs, the ANSWER SDC, and the

(continued on page 2)

RFP issued for Multiple Award Nationwide DSL support

Armando Santos

On 9/9 the ANSWER SDC issued an RFP for nationwide DSL support. The award of contracts under an MA/IDIQ format, for a base year with four one-year options, is projected to be made in the first quarter of FY01. The concept was envisioned and initiated by FTS ARA, Bill Horst. Mattie Buford, also of Region 1 has been working closely with Armando Santos, PCO for the acquisition.

ANSWER responds to the most frequently asked question

Mimi Bruce

In response to "...so what is the difference between ANSWER and ...", the ANSWER SDC compiled a specialized list of contract terms and conditions and the differences among the most frequently used IT contract vehicles. The publication is in a matrix format and addresses the question and provides a strong foundation for making acquisition decisions as to which contract vehicle should be used to satisfy a given IT requirement. For copies contact Karan Osborne or BJ Thigpen 858.530.3175.

(continued from page 1) ANSWER contractors to discuss contract nuances as well as business opportunities. More than 30 government and industry partners were in attendance. Topics included the Elimination of the Paid Cost Rule, and the ANSWER Contract Technical Refreshment. Technical topics were also presented by several industry partners with focus on the areas of Enterprise Resource Planning and Knowledge Management.

Request for Wage Determinations submitted to DOL

Thelma Riusaki

The base period of the ANSWER contracts will expire on December 31, 2000. The Government is exercising its first option to extend the term of the contract for the period January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001. A request for revised wage rates, for Year 3, was submitted to the Administrator, Wage and Hour Division. The new revised rates pertain to Skill Levels 20 through 22 and 55 through 58 and will be posted to the ANSWER website upon receipt.

Solutions Edu Schedules courses for FY01

Sherrie Householder

To date, six courses have been scheduled by Solutions Edu to provide customized acquisition training for FTS project/procurement officials, FTS clients, and FTS industry partners. The current slate of classes includes; Atlanta in October 00, Chicago in November 00, Oakland in November 00, San Diego in December 00, Bremerton in January 01 and Kansas City, April 01. Course titles include: Performance-based Statements of Work, Project Management under MA/IDIQ contracting, Contracting for Services under MA/IDIQ, Best Value and Source Selection, Cost Reimbursement Contracting, and Evaluating a Contractor's Performance.

Solutions Edu is a joint initiative among the FTS SDCs and is designed to provide customized acquisition courses specifically related to FTS contract vehicles. The initiative was prototyped in June of this year in San Diego with a focus on Performance Based Statements of Work. The class covered the traditional topics but in the context of the terms and conditions of currently operational FTS contracts. An additional class was conducted in Kansas City where extensive strides were made in constructing project shells to house future IT requirement statements. To schedule a content specific customized class contact Sherrie Householder, 858.537.2210.

Safeguard 2000 moves ahead

Armando Santos

Modifications to the Program Safeguard BPAs to exercise options and extend the performance period for an additional three years will be executed by September 30, 2000. The contract modification is in support of OIS' request to extend, with mutual agreement among the 27 industry partners of Program Safeguard.

October Events

Date: 10/10
Location: New York, Reg Office
Event: Region 2 RPM

Date: 10/11
Location: Cambridge, CSC
Event: Region 1 RPM

Date: 10/12
Location: Philadelphia, PRC
Event: Region 3 RPM

Date: 10/13
Location: Denver, SAIC
Event: Region 8 RPM

Date: 10/16
Location: Dayton, Crown Plaza
Event: ANSWER QPM

Date: 10/23-27
Location: Atlanta, Reg Office
Event: Solutions Edu

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